

# HOUSE BILL 360

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CF SB 528

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By: Delegates Vallario, Morales, Anderson, Atterbeary, Campos, Carter, Conaway,  
Dumais, Frush, Glass, Jalisi, Kramer, Moon, Rey, Reznik, Rosenberg, Smith,  
Sydnor, Valentino-Smith, and Waldstreicher

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2015

Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2015

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure – Seizure and Forfeiture**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~establishing a certain minimum amount of money that is subject to~~  
4 ~~forfeiture in connection with a controlled dangerous substance violation~~; repealing a  
5 certain presumption that certain money or weapons are forfeitable; altering a certain  
6 provision of law so as to provide that certain property may not be forfeited unless the  
7 State establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that a violation of a certain law  
8 was committed with the property owner's actual knowledge, rather than that the  
9 property may not be forfeited if the owner establishes by a preponderance of the  
10 evidence that the violation of law was committed without the owner's actual  
11 knowledge; prohibiting a certain seizing authority or prosecuting authority from  
12 directly or indirectly transferring seized property to a federal law enforcement  
13 authority or agency, with a certain exception; ~~providing that if the owner of seized~~  
14 ~~property is not charged with a violation of a certain law in connection with the~~  
15 ~~seizure of the property within a certain amount of time, the property shall be~~  
16 ~~immediately returned to the owner~~; repealing a certain rebuttable presumption that  
17 certain property is subject to forfeiture as proceeds; requiring a certain law  
18 enforcement agency to report, on an annual basis, certain information about each  
19 individual seizure and forfeiture completed by the agency under State or federal  
20 forfeiture law; authorizing the Maryland Statistical Analysis Center (MSAC) to  
21 require a law enforcement agency to provide relevant information not specified in  
22 this Act; requiring a certain law enforcement agency to file a certain report for the  
23 agency and the corresponding prosecutor's office with MSAC; requiring MSAC to

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 develop a certain form, a process, and deadlines for certain data entry; requiring  
2 MSAC to compile certain submissions and issue a certain report; requiring MSAC to  
3 make certain reports available in a certain manner; requiring the Governor's Office  
4 of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) to submit a certain report to the  
5 Governor, the General Assembly, and each law enforcement agency before a certain  
6 date each year; authorizing GOCCP to include in a certain report certain  
7 recommendations; requiring GOCCP to report information on law enforcement  
8 agencies not in compliance with this Act to the Police Training Commission;  
9 requiring the Police Training Commission to contact a certain law enforcement  
10 agency and request certain compliance; requiring GOCCP and the Police Training  
11 Commission to report certain noncompliance to the Governor and the Legislative  
12 Policy Committee of the General Assembly under certain circumstances; authorizing  
13 MSAC to recoup certain costs in a certain manner; authorizing a certain law  
14 enforcement agency to use forfeiture proceeds to pay the cost of compiling and  
15 reporting information required under this Act; defining certain terms; providing for  
16 the termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to seizure  
17 and forfeiture.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

19 Article – Criminal Procedure

20 Section 12–102, 12–103(a), ~~12–301~~, and 12–312

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

23 BY adding to

24 Article – Criminal Procedure

25 Section 12–211; and 13–601 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 6. Reporting”

26 Annotated Code of Maryland

27 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

28 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

29 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

30 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

31 12–102.

32 (a) The following are subject to forfeiture:

33 (1) controlled dangerous substances manufactured, distributed, dispensed,  
34 acquired, or possessed in violation of the Controlled Dangerous Substances law;

35 (2) raw materials, products, and equipment used, or intended for use, in  
36 manufacturing, compounding, processing, delivering, importing, or exporting a controlled  
37 dangerous substance in violation of the Controlled Dangerous Substances law;

1 (3) property used or intended for use as a container for property described  
2 in item (1) or (2) of this subsection;

3 (4) except as provided in § 12–103 of this subtitle, conveyances, including  
4 aircraft, vehicles, or vessels used or intended to be used to transport, or facilitate the  
5 transportation, sale, receipt, possession, or concealment of property described in item (1) or  
6 (2) of this subsection;

7 (5) books, records, and research, including formulas, microfilm, tapes, and  
8 data used or intended for use in violation of the Controlled Dangerous Substances law;

9 (6) subject to subsection (b) of this section, money ~~OF MORE THAN \$300~~  
10 or weapons used or intended to be used in connection with the unlawful manufacture,  
11 distribution, dispensing, or possession of a controlled dangerous substance or controlled  
12 paraphernalia;

13 (7) drug paraphernalia under § 5–619 of the Criminal Law Article;

14 (8) controlled paraphernalia under § 5–620 of the Criminal Law Article;

15 (9) except as provided in § 12–103 of this subtitle, the remaining balance  
16 of the proceeds of a sale by a holder of an installment sale agreement under § 12–626 of the  
17 Commercial Law Article of goods seized under this subtitle;

18 (10) except as provided in § 12–103 of this subtitle, real property; and

19 (11) everything of value furnished, or intended to be furnished, in exchange  
20 for a controlled dangerous substance in violation of the Controlled Dangerous Substances  
21 law, all proceeds traceable to the exchange, and all negotiable instruments and securities  
22 used, or intended to be used, to facilitate any violation of the Controlled Dangerous  
23 Substances law.

24 (b) (1) [(i) Money or weapons that are found in close proximity to a  
25 contraband controlled dangerous substance, controlled paraphernalia, or forfeitable  
26 records of the importation, manufacture, or distribution of controlled dangerous substances  
27 are contraband and presumed to be forfeitable.

28 (ii) A claimant of money or weapons has the burden to rebut the  
29 presumption.

30 (2)] All rights in, title to, and interest in the money or weapons immediately  
31 shall vest in:

32 (i) the State, if the seizing authority was a State unit;

33 (ii) the county in which the money or weapons were seized, if the  
34 seizing authority was a county law enforcement unit, including a sheriff's office; or

1 (iii) the municipal corporation in which the money or weapons were  
2 seized, if the seizing authority was a law enforcement unit of a municipal corporation.

3 ~~[(3)]~~ **(2)** The money or weapons may be returned to the claimant only as  
4 this title provides.

5 12-103.

6 (a) Property or an interest in property described in § 12-102(a)(4), (10), and (11)  
7 of this subtitle may not be forfeited ~~[if the owner]~~ **UNLESS THE STATE** establishes by a  
8 preponderance of the evidence that the violation of the Controlled Dangerous Substances  
9 law was committed ~~[without]~~ **WITH** the owner's actual knowledge.

10 **12-211.**

11 **A SEIZING AUTHORITY OR PROSECUTING AUTHORITY MAY NOT DIRECTLY OR**  
12 **INDIRECTLY TRANSFER SEIZED PROPERTY TO A FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
13 **AUTHORITY OR AGENCY UNLESS THE CASE IS PROSECUTED IN THE FEDERAL COURT**  
14 **SYSTEM UNDER FEDERAL LAW.**

15 ~~12-301.~~

16 ~~**(A)** Except as provided in § 12-304(e) of this subtitle, if property is seized under §~~  
17 ~~12-202(a)(2)(iv) and (v) of this title because there is probable cause to believe that the~~  
18 ~~property is directly or indirectly dangerous to health or safety and that the property was or~~  
19 ~~will be used to violate this title, forfeiture proceedings under this subtitle shall be filed~~  
20 ~~promptly.~~

21 ~~**(B)** IF THE OWNER OF SEIZED PROPERTY IS NOT CHARGED WITH A~~  
22 ~~**VIOLATION OF THE CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES LAW IN CONNECTION**~~  
23 ~~**WITH THE SEIZURE OF THE PROPERTY WITHIN 90 DAYS, THE PROPERTY SHALL BE**~~  
24 ~~**IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO THE OWNER.**~~

25 12-312.

26 (a) **[(1)]** Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, **[there is a**  
27 **rebuttable presumption that]** property or part of a property in which a person has an  
28 ownership interest is subject to forfeiture as proceeds, if the State establishes by clear and  
29 convincing evidence that:

30 **[(i)]** **(1)** the person has violated §§ 5-602 through 5-609, §§ 5-612  
31 through 5-614, § 5-617, § 5-618, or § 5-628 of the Criminal Law Article or has attempted  
32 or conspired to violate Title 5 of the Criminal Law Article;

1 [(ii)] (2) the property was acquired by the person during the  
2 violation or within a reasonable time after the violation; and

3 [(iii)] (3) there was no other likely source for the property.

4 [(2) A claimant of the property has the burden of proof to rebut the  
5 presumption in paragraph (1) of this subsection.]

6 (b) Real property used as the principal family residence may not be forfeited  
7 under this section unless:

8 (1) an owner of the real property was convicted of a crime described under  
9 subsection (a)(1) of this section; or

10 (2) the real property is covered by § 12-103(d)(2) of this title.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
12 as follows:

13 Article – Criminal Procedure

14 **SUBTITLE 6. REPORTING.**

15 **13-601.**

16 (A) (1) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
17 INDICATED.

18 (2) “GOCCP” MEANS THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL  
19 AND PREVENTION.

20 (3) “LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” MEANS A POLICE FORCE, A  
21 MULTIJURISDICTIONAL TASK FORCE, A FIRE DEPARTMENT, OR ANY OTHER LOCAL,  
22 COUNTY, OR STATE AGENCY THAT HAS THE AUTHORITY UNDER STATE LAW OR  
23 OPERATES IN COOPERATION WITH A FEDERAL AGENCY UNDER FEDERAL LAW TO  
24 ENGAGE IN SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE.

25 (4) “MSAC” MEANS THE MARYLAND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS  
26 CENTER OF GOCCP.

27 (B) ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL  
28 REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT EACH INDIVIDUAL SEIZURE AND  
29 FORFEITURE COMPLETED BY THE AGENCY UNDER STATE FORFEITURE LAW AND  
30 FEDERAL FORFEITURE LAW:

**(1) DATA ON SEIZURES AND FORFEITURES, INCLUDING:**

**(I) THE DATE THAT CURRENCY, VEHICLES, HOUSES, OR OTHER TYPES OF PROPERTY WERE SEIZED;**

**(II) THE TYPE OF PROPERTY SEIZED, INCLUDING YEAR, MAKE, AND MODEL, AS APPLICABLE;**

**(III) THE TYPE OF ALLEGED CRIME ASSOCIATED WITH THE SEIZURE OF THE PROPERTY;**

**(IV) THE OUTCOME OF RELATED CRIMINAL ACTION, INCLUDING WHETHER CHARGES WERE BROUGHT, A PLEA BARGAIN WAS REACHED, A CONVICTION WAS OBTAINED, OR AN ACQUITTAL WAS ISSUED;**

**(V) WHETHER THE PROCEDURE WAS A CRIMINAL FORFEITURE OR CIVIL FORFEITURE;**

**(VI) IF THE PROCEDURE WAS A CIVIL FORFEITURE, WHETHER THE PROCEDURE WAS ADMINISTRATIVE, JUDICIAL, OR OTHER;**

**(VII) WHETHER THE VENUE OF THE FORFEITURE CASE WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY, A SMALL CLAIMS COURT, A CIVIL COURT, A CRIMINAL COURT, OR ANY OTHER VENUE;**

**(VIII) WHETHER THE PROPERTY OWNER WAS REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY IN THE FORFEITURE CASE;**

**(IX) THE MARKET VALUE OF THE PROPERTY SEIZED;**

**(X) THE GROSS AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM THE FORFEITURE;**

**(XI) THE TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER EXPENSES DEDUCTED AS PART OF THE FORFEITURE PROCESS;**

**(XII) THE NET AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM THE FORFEITURE;**

**(XIII) THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROPERTY FOLLOWING SEIZURE, INCLUDING WHETHER THE PROPERTY WAS:**

**1. RETURNED TO THE OWNER;**

**2. DESTROYED; OR**

**3. SOLD OR RETAINED AFTER FORFEITURE; AND**

1 (XIV) THE DATE OF THE DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY; AND

2 (2) DATA ON EXPENDITURES OF FORFEITURE FUNDS BY THE LAW  
3 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, INCLUDING FUNDS SPENT ON:

4 (I) CRIME, GANG, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION  
5 PROGRAMS;

6 (II) WITNESS PROTECTION;

7 (III) VICTIM REPARATIONS;

8 (IV) INFORMANT FEES AND BUY MONEY;

9 (V) REGULAR-TIME SALARIES, OVERTIME PAY, AND EMPLOYEE  
10 BENEFITS FOR PROSECUTORS;

11 (VI) REGULAR-TIME SALARIES, OVERTIME PAY, AND EMPLOYEE  
12 BENEFITS FOR SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PERSONNEL OTHER THAN  
13 PROSECUTORS;

14 (VII) REGULAR-TIME SALARIES, OVERTIME PAY, AND EMPLOYEE  
15 BENEFITS FOR UNSWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PERSONNEL OTHER THAN  
16 PROSECUTORS;

17 (VIII) PROFESSIONAL OR OUTSIDE SERVICES, INCLUDING  
18 SERVICES RELATED TO AUDITING, COURT REPORTING, EXPERT WITNESSES, AND  
19 OTHER COURT COSTS;

20 (IX) TRAVEL AND MEALS;

21 (X) ENTERTAINMENT;

22 (XI) TRAINING;

23 (XII) CONFERENCES;

24 (XIII) VEHICLE PURCHASES;

25 (XIV) CANINES, FIREARMS, AND EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING  
26 TACTICAL GEAR;

27 (XV) CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, INCLUDING FURNITURE,  
28 COMPUTERS, AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT; AND

1 (XVI) OTHER USES.

2 (C) MSAC MAY REQUIRE A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO PROVIDE  
3 RELEVANT INFORMATION NOT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

4 (D) (1) EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL FILE WITH MSAC THE  
5 REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION FOR THE LAW  
6 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND THE CORRESPONDING PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE.

7 (2) THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL FILE SEPARATE  
8 REPORTS FOR FORFEITURES COMPLETED UNDER STATE FORFEITURE LAW AND  
9 FEDERAL FORFEITURE LAW.

10 (3) A NULL REPORT SHALL BE FILED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT  
11 AGENCY THAT DID NOT ENGAGE IN SEIZURES OR FORFEITURES DURING THE  
12 REPORTING PERIOD.

13 (E) (1) MSAC SHALL DEVELOP A STANDARD FORM, A PROCESS, AND  
14 DEADLINES FOR ELECTRONIC DATA ENTRY FOR ANNUAL SUBMISSION OF  
15 FORFEITURE DATA BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

16 (2) MSAC SHALL COMPILE THE SUBMISSIONS AND ISSUE AN  
17 AGGREGATE REPORT OF ALL FORFEITURES IN THE STATE.

18 (F) (1) BY MARCH 1 OF EACH YEAR, MSAC SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE ON  
19 MSAC'S WEB SITE THE REPORTS SUBMITTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES  
20 AND MSAC'S AGGREGATE REPORT.

21 (2) GOCCP SHALL SUBMIT THE AGGREGATE REPORT TO THE  
22 GOVERNOR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AS PROVIDED IN § 2-1246 OF THE STATE  
23 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, AND EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY BEFORE  
24 SEPTEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR.

25 (G) GOCCP MAY INCLUDE, WITH MSAC'S AGGREGATE REPORT,  
26 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE TO IMPROVE FORFEITURE STATUTES TO  
27 BETTER ENSURE THAT FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS ARE REPORTED AND HANDLED  
28 IN A MANNER THAT IS FAIR TO CRIME VICTIMS, INNOCENT PROPERTY OWNERS,  
29 SECURED INTEREST HOLDERS, CITIZENS, AND TAXPAYERS.

30 (H) (1) IF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE  
31 REPORTING PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, GOCCP SHALL REPORT THE  
32 NONCOMPLIANCE TO THE POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION.

1           **(2) THE POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION SHALL CONTACT THE LAW**  
2 **ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND REQUEST THAT THE AGENCY COMPLY WITH THE**  
3 **REQUIRED REPORTING PROVISIONS.**

4           **(3) IF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE**  
5 **REQUIRED REPORTING PROVISIONS WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER BEING CONTACTED BY**  
6 **THE POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION, GOCCP AND THE POLICE TRAINING**  
7 **COMMISSION JOINTLY SHALL REPORT THE NONCOMPLIANCE TO THE GOVERNOR**  
8 **AND THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

9           **(i) (1) MSAC MAY RECOUP ITS COSTS BY CHARGING A FEE TO LAW**  
10 **ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT ENGAGE IN SEIZURES OR FORFEITURES DURING**  
11 **THE REPORTING PERIOD.**

12           **(2) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY USE FORFEITURE PROCEEDS**  
13 **TO PAY THE COST OF COMPILING AND REPORTING DATA UNDER THIS SUBTITLE,**  
14 **INCLUDING ANY FEE IMPOSED BY MSAC.**

15           SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 October 1, 2015. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at  
17 the end of September 30, 2018, with no further action required by the General Assembly.  
18 Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Delegates.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate.